

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 01821 102112Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 H-01 SS-15  
/036 W

-----102117Z 112574 /62

R 101955Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4438

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STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: CASC, BL  
SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRISONERS IN BOLIVIA

REF: LA PAZ 1740

1. I TALKED WITH SUB-SECRETARY OF JUSTICE, DR. GASTON LEDESMA, LATE MARCH 9 ABOUT THE U.S. PRISONERS' SITUATION IN BOLIVIA. HE SAID THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNDERSTANDING WITH THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR, HE HAD MET WITH THE JUDGES DURING THE MORNING AND AFTER-NOON OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, TO EXPLAIN THE NEED TO ACCELERATE PRISONER CASES AND ALSO TO EXPEDITE THOSE WHICH ARE IN THE CATEGORIES OF DOUBTFUL EVIDENCE, ILLNESSES OR PROLONGED DETENTION. ACCORDING TO LEDESMA THE JUDGES FEEL THAT THE PRISONERS ATTORNEYS ARE NOT DOING THEIR JOBS AND THAT FREQUENTLY INTERPRETERS ARE NOT AVAILABLE. LEDESMA AND I AGREED THAT WE WILL MEET ON MONDAY, MARCH 14, UPON HIS RETURN FROM SUCRE TO WORK OUT A PROGRAM OF CONCENTRATED ACTION ON SPECIFIC CASES. HE WISHES TO PROCEED WITH THE CONCEPT OF HAVING TEAM EFFORT WHICH WOULD INCLUDE THE PRESENCE OF A CONSULAR OFFICER, THE PRISONER'S ATTORNEY, AND AN INTERPRETER WITH THE PRISONER DURING THE PERIOD OF ACCELERATED

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HEARINGS. LEDESMA SAID HE FELT SURE THAT THIS APPROACH WOULD YIELD PROMPT RESULTS.

2. LEDESMA SAID THAT HE WISHED ME TO KNOW IN CONFIDENCE THAT ONE OF THE CASES WILL BE RESOLVED BY THE JUDGE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. HE DID NOT WISH TO REVEAL THE NAME NOR INDICATE THE OUTCOME BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT THIS INVOLVES ONE OF THE

WEAKER CASES AND WILL IN ALL LIKELIHOOD BE A FAVORABLE DECISION.  
STEDMAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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